

NATIONAL RESERVE (NO LONGER UNDER CONSIDERATION)

Under this management option, Congress would have established a National Reserve, an area cooperatively managed by the NPS and nonfederal organizations.

Congress would have chartered a locally-based non-profit Gaviota Trust, authorized to purchase agricultural or conservation easements throughout the National Reserve.

The National Reserve would have had a two part boundary: 1) a limited area in which NPS would be authorized to acquire land in fee to provide visitor services and public access where ownership by other public entities was not feasible or practical (fair market value from willing sellers only), and 2) a larger area in which the Trust or NPS could acquire easements and collaborate on resource protection, agricultural conservation, public access and education.

A combination of federal, state, local and private land management and acquisition mechanisms

would have been encouraged within the boundary.

Landowners not seeking to sell land or interests in land to the Trust or other organizations would have maintained their land in current ownership and under the current set of local, state and federal land use and resource management regulations.

Archeological, ceremonial, and other sites important to Chumash would have been protected, in collaboration and consultation with the Chumash organizations. Opportunities for active cultural education and interpretation would have been explored.

Authorizing language would have provided for direct transfer of nationally significant portions of Vandenberg AFB to the NPS if those portions of the base were ever declared excess to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Establishment of a National Reserve would have maintained existing local, state and federal control, while providing additional access to federal funding for acquisition of land and easements.